

TESTING ELIGIBILITY – EXPERIENCE

Candidates seeking new or upgraded certifications must meet minimum initial experience requirements which are discipline specific, as determined by the Certification Board. Acceptable experience is time spent performing the hands-on duties of a trained professional in the discipline and at a level of complexity for which certification is desired.

During the course of their work, operators, technicians, analysts, and inspectors are expected to perform a wide range of relevant duties and tasks. Experience gained in the operation of wastewater treatment plants, collection systems, laboratory analysis, mechanical maintenance, and drinking water treatment facilities may be considered for related experience in other certification disciplines, and other disciplines as determined by the Certification Board. No one task or activity (i.e. collecting samples, conducting routine or simple laboratory tests, operating a combination sewer truck, performing mechanical maintenance work, etc.) will be deemed full time equivalent operating experience. Duties and tasks submitted as evidence of full-time or related experience for any discipline shall be granted at the discretion of the Certification Board. No more than 6 months shall be granted from related experience for any certification discipline.

For the Regulatory Program, operators cannot obtain certification at grade levels higher than the highest classification of a facility in which they have at least one (1) year of operating experience. For example, if the highest classification of a facility in which an operator has worked for at least one (1) year is a Class 2, the operator cannot obtain a full Grade III or Grade IV Certification. The operator may, however, obtain a Restricted Grade III if he/she meets the education and experience requirements. For candidates in the Non-Regulatory Programs, the plant classification restriction does not apply and Restricted Certificates are only available for Grade 1.

The following table summarizes the certification requirements and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) operating experience required for each level of certification in the Regulatory Certification Program (Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator) and Non-Regulatory Certification Programs.

Initial Certification Operating Experience Requirements		
Grade	Regulatory Program	Non-Regulatory Programs
I/1	1 year of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) operating experience at a Class 1 (or higher) facility	1 year of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) operating experience
II/2	Grade I certification and 2 years of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) operating experience with at least 1 year at a Class 2 (or higher) facility	Grade 1 certification and 2 years of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) operating experience
III/3	Grade II certification and 3 years of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) operating experience with at least 1 year at a Class 3 (or higher) facility	Grade 2 certification and 3 years of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) operating experience
IV/4	Grade III certification and 4 years of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) operating experience with at least 1 year at a Class 4 facility	Grade 3 certification and 4 years of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) operating experience